

SCHOOL

SPIRIT

Pages 6-7

What's behind the long-held belief that SHHS lacks spirit? The Shakerite asked students, alumni and staff. Read their answers, and what we made of them, in this issue's Centerpiece.



We're Running Out of Resilience

As a senior at Shaker Heights High School, I have had to think more about my safety this year than any other.

Walking through bag searches and wandering has made me more uncomfortable about going to school than ever. But the reasons behind it are more important than my feelings.

The experience of attending school in the United States of America is now consumed by the worry of being shot or attacked. The idea that going to school one day could be a person's last is on our mind every day.



Eliot Call
Editor's Note

So I pose this question to all students, families, teachers and administrators: What do you value more? Your life or your education? There is no escaping the fact that we must accept some sort of safety protocol every day at school. The conversation that we should be having is about how we can make these protocols as efficient and effective as possible.

Dr. David Glasner, our superintendent, agrees that our current safety protocol is unsustainable. So, I ask: Why has a new plan not yet been created and its implementation date announced? If the protocol hasn't been sustainable since Sept. 29, when Principal Eric Juli announced random bag searches, what have the administrators with the power to bring a plan to the Board of Education been doing for three weeks?

I encourage the administration to take action. My sister is a freshman. I worry about her safety as much as mine. When I leave in May, I want to know that she will be safe. We seniors have experienced so many safety threats that we never know what might happen at school. Underclassmen should not have to feel that way when they are seniors.

We need metal detectors or some type of weapon-detecting system in the school now to ensure our safety. Detectors are everywhere today. We walk through them without thinking to attend concerts and games, to board planes, to enter buildings. There is no acceptable reason why we should not walk through them at school. Managing Editor Isabel Siegel published "Are Metal Detectors the Next Step?" back in April.

On pages 6-7 of this edition, you'll find Olivia Cavallo's look at the lack of school spirit at SHHS. But how can students show spirit when some don't even want to go to school? It's difficult to get excited for school events when the school itself has struggles with safety. The school and community must unite to demand change so we can return to some form of normalcy. That would make room for us to feel school spirit again.

We students have always been resilient, whether evacuating into the stadium after a bomb threat, or evacuating repeatedly for false fire alarms, or sitting in Crew for an hour and 20 minutes while police searched the school for a weapon.

Our resilience is running out. Make our schools safe.

In This Issue

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THE SHAKERITE

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Pages 6-7

What's behind the long-held belief that SHHS lacks spirit? The Shakerite asked student, alumni and staff. Read their answers, and what we made of them, in this month's centerpiece.

The Story Behind the Cover

ALISON TEETER
Design Managing Editor

The cover you hold in your hands almost didn't happen. I designed the cover a month ago to help add a visual presence to Spotlight Editor Oliva Cavallo's in-depth look at school spirit. But failed attempts to take a usable photo at a football game delayed finalizing the page. Copy Chief Daniel Carroll, who had worn the costume once as a freshman, knew that the suit would be at the high school because of that night's football game, and we planned to borrow it for a quick shoot before kickoff.

Unfortunately, he learned that the costume was on loan to Mercer Elementary School for an event earlier that day, so we regrouped and managed to rope in senior Trent Kafcsak, whom we convinced to drive Daniel to Mercer in return for gas money (which as of writing I still owe him). They arrived at Mercer only to learn that senior football player Trey McNutt had Tuffy in his car. With no chance of reaching Trey before the game, Daniel, Trent and I went to the track to shoot just the flag with our only camera, which was half-dead and had a blurry viewfinder.

Following an admittedly lousy shoot, our luck turned – we ran into Trey outside the football locker room; he told us that he returned the costume to the office. We grabbed the suit, Daniel donned it, and we went back to the track to take the shot that I used for the cover – just as our camera died.

THE SHAKERITE

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SECURITY, SO FAR

DANIEL CARROLL
Copy Chief

This timeline shows the progression of the safety policy from its Sept. 18 announcement to its Oct. 21 status. The district began using hand-held, metal-detecting wands to check students, and employees searched students' bags, upon entering school Sept. 19. Bag checks are now randomly performed. As of Oct. 21, walk-through metal detectors have not been instituted, and no plan to do so has been made public.



September 18

Principal Eric Juli sent an email to students and families outlining procedures for the first day of the new safety policy, mentioning bag searches and wand. Students disliked the suggestion that they shouldn't bring backpacks.



Students wait outside of the main entrance Sept. 19, the first day of the policy.

Photo by Daniel Carroll



September 19

Students waited in two lengthy lines at the front entrance and lower cafeteria to have their bags searched and their person wanded. Staff, including Juli and Superintendent David Glasner, searched bags while a security monitor used a wand to screen students. Few students showed up with anything other than a backpack.



September 24

Clouds of the previous day turned into rain, and stations were set up in the upper and lower cafeterias. A tent was set up just outside of the lower cafeteria entrance, but the line stretched far past it.

October 2

The first random bag check of the year, wanding included. The arrival procedure was lengthy, as it was before.

October 8

On PSAT day, when the majority of students attending were 10th and 11th graders, there were no screenings.



September 29

Juli sent an email in the evening explaining a new system in which bag checks would occur on random days for all students, along with a survey asking for student thoughts on metal detection technology.



Math teacher Ryan Ruth helps screen students outside the main entrance Sept. 19.

Photo by Camryn Dozier

October 21

Since screenings were announced 33 days ago, there have been discussions on the administrative level about metal detectors, but no date has been set to implement them.

October 14

Cleveland Heights High School students returned to metal detectors, installed over the weekend, in response to two incidents the previous week in which loaded guns were found in the school.

WHY STOWING IT IN YOUR BACKPACK ISN'T ENOUGH



Principal Eric Juli unlocks a student's Yondr pouch outside the main entrance Sept. 20 during security screening before school. Ohio is one of eight states that have passed laws restricting student access to phones at school. The others are California, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, Indiana and Minnesota. Similar laws have been introduced in 12 other state legislatures this year. SHHS students must bring Yondr pouches to school daily. Lost or damaged Yondr pouches incur a \$30 replacement fee. According to Juli, students who lie about possessing a phone when they get to school won't receive consequences as long as those phones remain in backpacks, powered off, all day. When the school day ends at 3:10 p.m., students unlock their devices as they leave using one of several portable magnets. Outside the building, students' foot traffic patterns will be used to decide where to install 12 to 15 fixed magnets, likely near four exits: the main entrance/exit; the lower cafeteria patio; the Aldersyde Drive exit by Room 110; and the auditorium exit into the north parking lot.

Photo by Camryn Dozier

BOE president says equitable enforcement, safety concerns pointed to Yondr device policy

LIAM MACGILVRAY
Campus and City Editor

The Board of Education chose Yondr pouches over other, less restrictive methods in order to achieve an equitable and consistent phone use policy.

The district is one quarter of the school year into requiring students to place all of their personal electronic devices into Yondr pouches during the school day. The pouches are small, lockable bags that require a special magnet to unlock.

Ohio House Bill 250, signed by Gov. Mike DeWine (R) in May, mandates that all Ohio public schools implement policy to restrict student phone use during the day.

The decision to use Yondr pouches was made by the Board of Education after district building administrators recommended a policy that included the devices. Before voting to approve it, board members researched options for cell phone restrictions and gathered community feedback from students, parents,

teachers and social workers through panels and public forums.

Neither Principal Eric Juli nor Associate Principal James Dubsky made the final decision. Dubsky led a committee of high school staff who helped to create the recommendation, and Juli helped to present it to the Board. The policy is also in effect at the middle school.

According to BOE President Lora Cover, the Board will review data to determine any future decisions about the policy.

Data will include the number of phones confiscated, the number of students who forget their pouches, the number of students suspended for repeatedly violating the policy and the number of replacement pouches being purchased.

Dubsky said students' foot traffic patterns will be used to decide where to install permanent unlocking magnets.

Dubsky said that equity is the largest benefit of the Yondr system. "I think the advantage that Yondr brings to the school setting is that it's very universal," he said. Other methods of restricting phone use, such as requiring students to keep their phones in their bags or in wall-mounted pouches in each classroom, were rejected because they were determined to be harder to enforce and less effective at preventing phone use, he said.

Cover said that the Board spoke with other school districts while researching the best approach to take, and found that other methods



"I think the advantage that Yondr brings to the school setting is that it's very universal."

Associate Principal
James Dubsky

were not as effective.

"It put a lot on the teachers to be in this constant space of making sure kids put their phones up at the front, making sure that they stayed in the front," she said, "and trying to keep that as a sustainable and consistent policy, in the end, had not been as successful in other places."

In contrast, schools gave positive feedback about Yondr pouches, such as a reduction in fighting and increased socialization.

The district put more effort into establishing this phone policy than previous policies in hopes of making it effective. "We have tried things in the district before. They haven't worked. They work for a couple weeks, and then they stop working," Cover said.

Cover said that the Board has so far received positive anecdotal feedback from students and teachers on the new policy. More reliably, the Board hopes to see improved results from the Panorama Survey, which students complete once in the fall and once in the spring. The survey asks students questions about their social and mental wellbeing and their thoughts on the school environment, including safety. The Board is especially looking for improvements in the spring survey.

Cover said she believes that effects could extend beyond increased attention and socializing.

She said, "I don't think it's crazy for us to also see attendance get better."

FOUNTAINS THIRST FOR PARTS AS HIGH SCHOOL AGES

LIAM MACGILVRAY
Campus and City Editor

Saint Anthony Crawford, a freshman, is frustrated with the water fountains near his classrooms. “The water doesn’t come up high enough, and it’s warm at the same time,” said Crawford, referring to the fountain near the weight room. “When I’m thirsty in class, I really get tired of it.”

That fountain is one of 26 in the high school that work, even if some work poorly. Seven of the fountains, or 24 percent, are broken, including one has been removed.

According to maintenance mechanic Charlie Imm, several factors contribute to the long maintenance times. For one, determining what replacement part is needed is often difficult. “Each generation of these water fountains – the parts from one generation don’t fit with the next generation,” Imm said. “So the manufacturer is quite good at creating a whole new product every year.”

Some parts, such as solenoid valves, which start and stop water flow, are reusable across different generations. Others, such as water bottle sensor circuit boards, are specific to each generation.

When the correct part is located, it can be expensive. The sensor board can cost as much as \$150. A compressor, responsible for cooling the water, can cost around \$275. According to Imm, the prices make it difficult to convince the district to buy replacement parts.

This is all only true when Imm is able to diagnose what part failed, which isn’t always possible, or practical from a time perspective, depending on the complexity of the failure. “You’re asking a whole lot out of one individual to be able to do all these different tasks and have the time to do it all,” Imm said.

Due to these factors, a full replacement is usually the only option when a fountain breaks, Imm said. Such requests



The two water fountains located outside the Egress doors were both broken Oct 4. Photo by Liam MacGilvray.

have to go through the school budget process, which is slow. “Just because a water fountain’s out, doesn’t mean it’s a priority for them,” Imm said.

The renovation of Ludlow and Woodbury schools is serving as an unlikely source for parts and replacement fountains. “The closing of the two schools is a godsend because we’re getting pieces and parts we never would’ve been able to get,” Imm said.

There are three types of fountains around the building: metal fountains with and without bottle fillers, and two much older porcelain fountains, one in the basement and one on the third floor, neither of which works. Replacing the remaining porcelain fountains is challenging because new fountains require electricity. Running wires to new fountains in a building as old as the high school is a significant task.

Low water pressure could be caused by the fountain or by supply lines. “Regrettably, the pipes in here are one hundred-plus years old,” Imm said. “They’re just tired, man.”

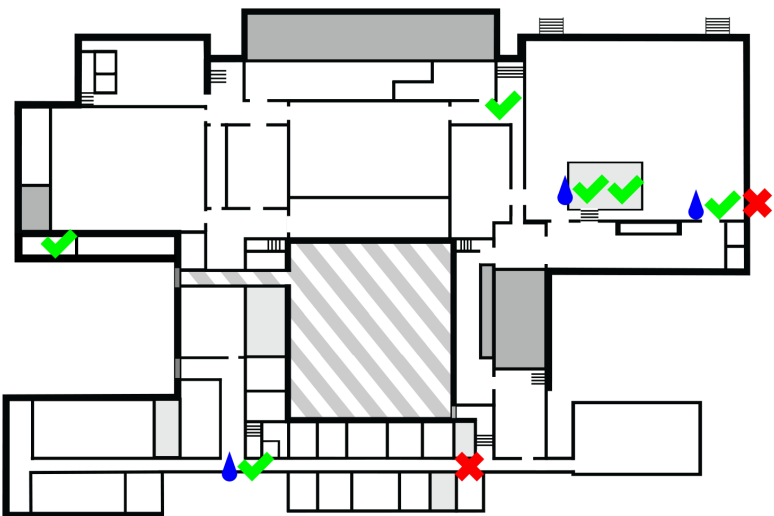
If the water supply lines need repair, Imm often has to wait for a day when students aren’t at school, as such repairs often require that the entire building’s water supply be shut off.

Junior Nathaniel Price said that his experience has been mostly smooth. “Most of the water fountains do work. I feel like there’s a couple ones that need to be replaced or turned back on because they’re the old metal ones that don’t have the water bottle filler,” he said.

Harlan Sadowsky, a junior, said he is frustrated about the lack of communication. “They’re not telling us when things are out of order,” he said. “I saw one that was taken out – there just wasn’t a water fountain there.”

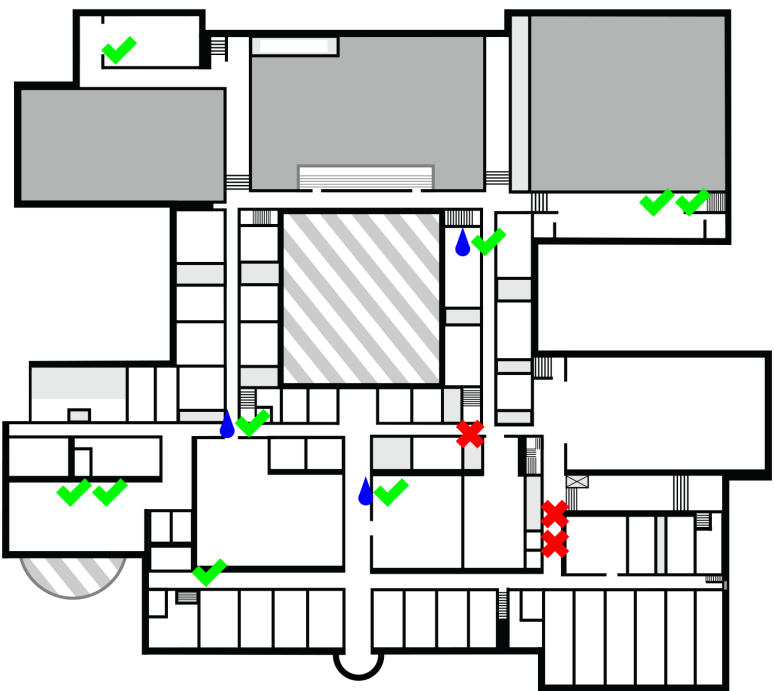
The Shakerite’s Oct. 17 survey found that none of the broken fountains were labeled with out-of-order notices.

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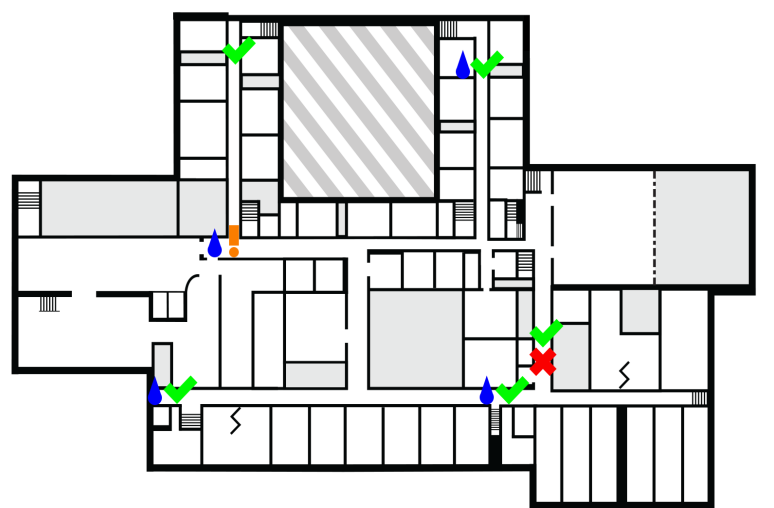


Graphic by Alison Teeter and Liam MacGilvray

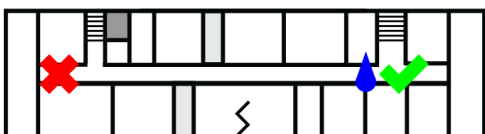
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The interior of a defective bottle filler displays a label maintenance mechanic Charlie Imm applied while attempting to diagnose the problem. Photo by Liam MacGilvray

ARE WE DISPIRITED?

Students, staff and alumni weigh in on the high school’s perceived lack of school spirit

OLIVIA CAVALLO
Spotlight Editor
Shaker has no school spirit. There’s a good chance you’ve heard that sentiment around the high school, and it raises the question: What’s tanking our enthusiasm?

“If they’re at 100 percent, Shaker is at 50 percent,” sophomore Bryanah Kingsberry said of Shaker’s spirit compared to that of other high schools. This observation is nothing new; the idea that the high school lacks spirit has existed for decades. In 2013, former Shakerite Editor in Chief Shane McKeon even wrote a column about that belief.

A school spirit shortage could negatively impact students. Studies link a feeling of belonging with improved grades and psychological well-being.

“If you don’t feel wanted somewhere, or if you don’t have any connections to that, why succeed in that place?” social studies teacher Andrew Glasier said. “When I lost that connection to the school, my grades also dropped,” Glasier said of his high school years.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines school spirit as “a spirit of pride or camaraderie among the students of a school.” Its first recorded use was in 1853, and in later uses, the phrase primarily pertains to support for sports teams.

“We don’t really know how to do spirit,” said Marian Steenbergh, the high school’s former accounting specialist who oversaw the cafeteria spirit store. Steenbergh said that school spirit isn’t considered cool among students.

But has the high school always been this way? Alumnus Devin Campbell (’20) said that when the Raider field hockey team went to the state championship tournament in 2019, the school held a sendoff parade complete with a decorated bus.

Campbell attended the high school during a time when his team’s games were promoted on the P.A., and tickets were sold at lunch. “[Ice] hockey, when I played, was the biggest sport there,” he said.

But football has long been a marker of school spirit in American high schools. It emerged in American universities in the mid-1800s and quickly gained popularity before being adopted by high schools. Schools that emphasize football have more united communities, but that enthusiasm can emerge from a lack of resources; athletes may be motivated by the idea that sports are their only path to success.

Alumnus Richard Cohen (’50) said that while attending SHHS in the late 1940s, stu-

dents were enthusiastic about the school’s football team, and games drew large crowds.

But, enthusiasm for sports and activities can be subdued by events beyond the high school.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, students attended school remotely, which limited or shut down clubs and other activities. Then, in-person school became optional, and eventually, all students returned. However, student groups remained weakened post-lockdown.

“To me there is a very obvious point where school spirit declined, and that was the pandemic,” said math teacher Joel Rathbone, a Shaker alumnus. He said that Student Council, which used to organize displays of school spirit, weakened during lockdown because graduating members were unable to pass traditions down to underclassmen.

However, Rathbone said, clubs today could slowly build up membership. This wouldn’t be an easy process. Advisers have to sustain the activity through periods of low participation before numbers rebound. School spirit cannot return by force, especially if staff are pushing it onto students, he said.

“It can’t be an adult,” sophomore Caroline Collier said. “People aren’t gonna listen if it’s an adult. It has to be a student.”

However, fear of standing out may create roadblocks on the path to school spirit. Sophomore Emilia Chevroaux saw that fear in action before and during the Sept. 27 homecoming football game. “We were getting ready at my house, and we were like, ‘Oh, guys, we could put on face paint,’ and then we were like, ‘No, nobody else is really gonna have it,’” she said.

“I went over to the freshmen,” she said. “I was like, ‘Stand up; you guys are being lame. Stand up,’ but I can’t do that to the seniors and the juniors.”

Upperclassmen who are willing to take the lead could begin a domino spirit effect. “I think we just need someone from the crowd to be in charge,” sophomore Amelia Chase said.

Campbell, the 2020 graduate, said that in order to renew school spirit, the district should pinpoint what students are interested in and “meet them where they’re at.” He said that more audience engagement at sporting events, such as shot contests and raffles, could captivate even those who are uninterested in athletics.

Former SHHS English teacher Susie Jackson, who grew up in, and now teaches in Texas, said that the high school could promote school spirit by increasing exposure to athletics. For example, athletes could be high-



An image from the 1953 SHHS yearbook, the Gristmill, depicts students sporting old-school khakis, penny loafers, pedal pushers, bobby socks, cuffed jeans, a Peter Pan collar, a pleated skirt, saddle shoes, a flannel shirt, belts and bucks. But is the most dated aspect of the photo the Shaker banner that the this quintet is proudly hoisting? The expression “school spirit” first appeared in English in 1853. At that time, it signified “a spirit of pride or camaraderie” among students who attend school together. Earlier meanings of spirit suggested a kind of commitment to the good of a community. By the 1920s, school spirit began to be used mostly in reference to enthusiastic cheering for a school’s athletic teams. More than 100 years later, when schools and the activities the offer are far more diverse, a new sense of school spirit may be overdue: one that represents the many ways that students can engage with their alma mater outside of cheers and face paint.

lighted on the morning announcements.

English teacher Marina Wasserman said that frequent policy changes impede school spirit by removing students’ sense of stability. In the past four school years, the high school has followed a different schedule every year, including this year, when the plan for four lunch periods fell through after school started.

“There’s no spirit until there’s consistency,” Wasserman said. She said that spirit among staff has also been lower this school year than in the past.

Additionally, the district implemented a phone ban starting at the beginning of the school year. The high school also started using bag checks and metal detection wands to bolster security. Kingsberry said that these changes are “making it feel like the school isn’t as safe.”

“Nobody really wants to be at school,” she said.

Glasier began teaching at the high school in 1999. He said the school spirit disparity between Shaker and other schools could

have older roots. “Sports during that time period were always secondary to academics. We were known as a powerhouse academic, and even though we had strong sports teams, that was never seen to be part of the focus,” Glasier said.

Jonathan Bailey-Jenkins, a junior, said that the high school has a lot of extracurricular activities outside of athletics, which causes school spirit to be more scattered than in other districts.

Hockey coach Matthew Bartley offered a similar explanation. “If you go to a small town in the middle of Ohio, the only thing to do on Friday is go to the football game,” Bartley said. “We’re not hyper focused on one thing here.”

“If you have a ton of programs, it diversifies the population,” said Jackson. “When you have fewer resources like West Texas, everybody tends to gravitate to the same activities, and that’s where you tend to get your team spirit.”

Having so many student groups makes unity challenging, and the resulting disper-

sion of school spirit makes it less obvious. “Some of the lack of school spirit is a by-product of having a diverse student body,” said McKeon, whose 2013 column was titled “Why We Lack School Spirit.” In it, he wrote, “We must focus on similarities, not differences. Our diversity is only as good as our unity.”

“When you have a student body comprising many different groups, perspectives and life experiences, it becomes harder to have one big unified identity,” said McKeon, who is now a producer and engineer for the ABC News 538 Politics podcast. “Maybe that’s OK. I would rather have that problem than have the problems that go along with going somewhere that’s totally homogenous.”

Glasier said that the student body is divided in some ways. “There’s different groups in the school that intermingle here and there, but there’s also factionalism,” said Glasier. “That is true, I would say, in most large high schools.”

Wasserman said that students have more allegiance to their subgroups than to the high school as a whole. Therefore, students who

don’t participate in extracurriculars have no sense of belonging.

Ramona Lowery-Ferrell graduated from the high school in 1989. She said that she was disconnected from the district as a high school student because her job prevented her from attending extracurriculars. “If you’re a part of a team of some sort,” she said, “you’re just more connected to the school. So then when you’re in that, then you are more apt to participate in a spirit day. It’s not just the spirit piece, it’s the connection piece with the activities.”

Lowery-Ferrell, who is now public works director for Shaker Heights, said that she encourages her children to participate in sports, and she doesn’t allow them to work.

Social media also affects how students express school spirit. Gone are the days of hanging banners and decorating lockers, but that doesn’t mean that athletes don’t promote their teams. Bartley said that his students advertise their games online, which teachers may not realize. Additionally, most Shaker sports games are live streamed, which can decrease in-person attendance.

Some people find that school spirit increases after graduation. “You don’t realize how special Shaker is until you leave,” Bartley said.

Cohen said that he remembers the district fondly. “Looking back, the education we got at Shaker Heights High School was outstanding, all through school,” he said.

McKeon said that his perspective changed. “With a little bit of time passing, I can definitely appreciate Shaker a lot more,” he said.

Not everyone says that our school spirit is lackluster. Junior Jacquelyn Anzo, who attends games regularly, said that the high school emphasizes football, and crowds are enthusiastic. “I like the energy of the football games more than the football,” Anzo said.

Even if school spirit is perceived as uncool, there are still people who are passionate about the district. “Shaker has been very near to my heart. It played a really big part in who I am and my sense of community,” alumna Madison Williams-Hite said while attending this year’s homecoming football game. “Whenever we walk through, it feels like home.”

If students are tethered to the district through something they enjoy, then how much do superficial measures of school spirit matter? Cheering at a football game and helping out at a soup kitchen with Youth Ending Hunger both demonstrate investment in the community.

The bottom line? By aspiring toward diversity, the district may sacrifice some sense of unity. Lockdown eroded tradition and student leadership. However, there will always be spirited individuals, and increasing school spirit is not impossible. Students and staff should unite around these ideals of diversity instead of allowing spirit to be a perpetual grievance.

“Shaker can take immense pride in everything it’s doing, everything it’s done, to try to live up to that. As an alum, when I think back to Shaker, I mean, that’s the stuff that makes me the proudest of where I came from,” said McKeon. “There are so many people trying to do something very hard, which is to have diversity and to make it work.”

In Hollywood, Spirit is Less Fact Than Fiction

It’s not uncommon to grow up watching movies about high school. But do they set our standards impossibly high?

Movies about high school can create unrealistic expectations of school spirit.

“Those films are also trying to portray a dreamlike experience of what high school is supposed to be like,” said social studies teacher Andrew Glasier, who studied film in college.

It’s not hard to picture the disappointment that some students experience after reaching high school. We don’t have wild pep rallies. The stands aren’t always packed at our football games. Most importantly, there isn’t the feeling that we all have one thing to rally behind.

“A lot of those films are white suburban school films, and we don’t quite fit into that mold, and there are many other schools that don’t fit into that mold at all,” said Glasier.

Shaker is not the average high school. Even if our idealized vision of school spirit doesn’t exist here, could it exist elsewhere?

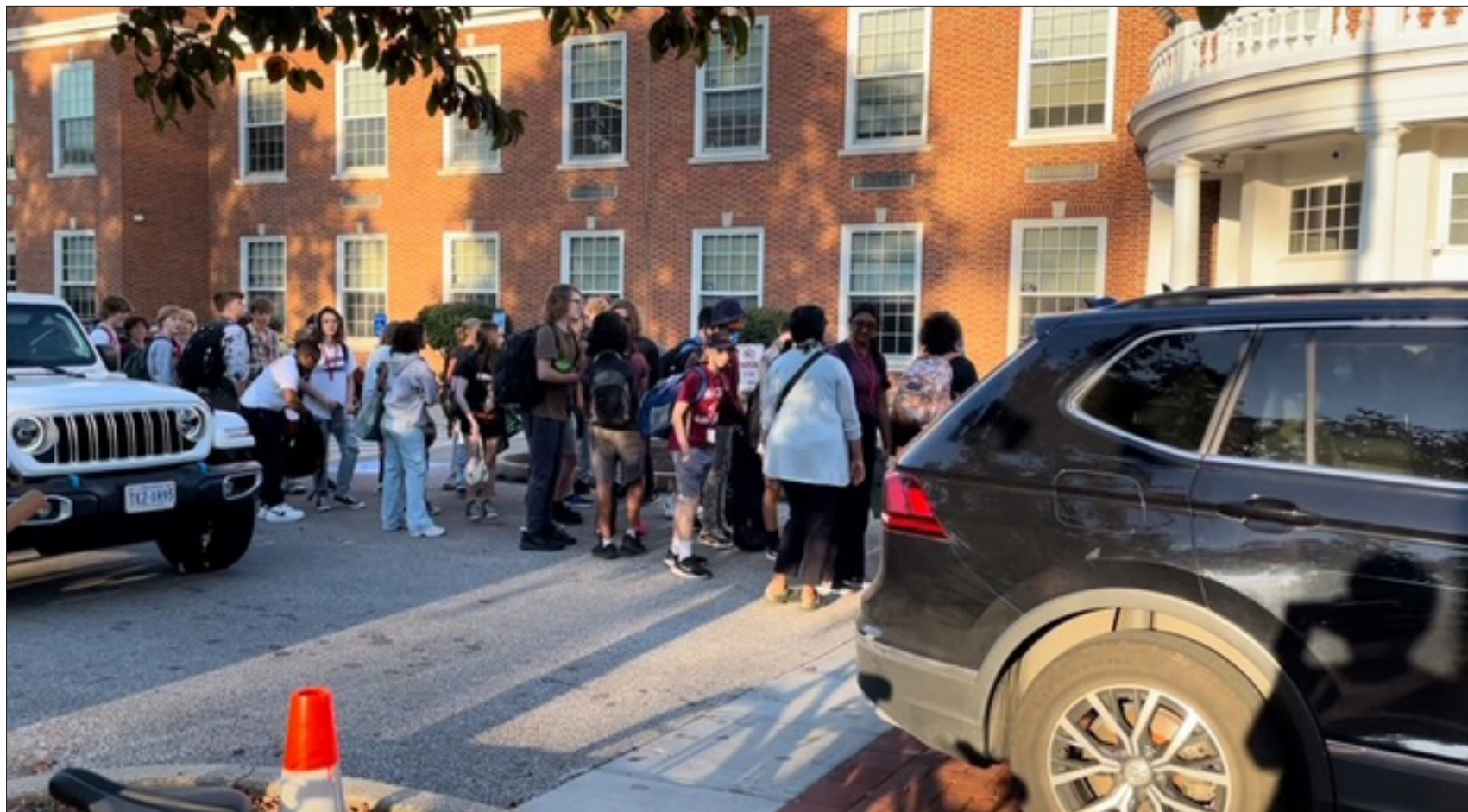
Marina Wasserman teaches Film as Art. She said that all movies about high school will have inaccuracies because they’re created by people who are decades removed from that experience. However, she also said that she’s attended and taught in schools that fit those stereotypes. Shaker participates in spirit week, but participation is spotty.

Wasserman attended Midpark High School, where expressions of spirit were “head to toe -- orange knee socks, with brown leggings and a bright orange shirt. People would have their faces painted, and even in the hallways we would take orange paper and cover the lights up top so our hallways would glow orange,” she said.

Susie Jackson, who returned to her native Texas after teaching English at SHHS, offered perspective about West Texas spirit.

“Do the top athletes get attention? Yes. Do they typically win homecoming king and queen? Yes, but the drama and everything else that goes with the whole package of the movie? No, the kids just live normal lives. They do school, they participate in activities, they have a home life. It’s not as intertwined and dramatic as the movies make it.”





Students wait in line for bag checks and metal detecting outside the high school's main entrance as parents drive past them before school Sept. 19, the first day of new security practices.

Shakerite Photo

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Submit a letter to the editor or inquire about a Guest Rite in Room 231 during conferences, via email to editor@shakerite.com, or by visiting shakerite.com/submit-a-letter.

The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter.

DECISIONS ABOUT SECURITY ARE OVERDUE

We need a permanent solution to the security issues that have led to a variety of unsustainable policies this school year.

While stricter safety policies are a necessary step that we support, there are ways to make security measures more effective and efficient for everyone.

We commend the district for rightfully acknowledging that a stronger security policy is essential, and for implementing a temporary solution. Processing students before they enter the building, especially by metal detection, is a necessary step for the high school to take.

However, the district's initial process, in which students waited in line each morning for up to 45 minutes to have their bags searched and to be checked using metal-detecting wands, was simply not sustainable.

'Rite Idea

Administrators then took a step back by stating that this process would become an occasional, rather than daily, occurrence. Although this change did increase the efficiency of the morning arrival process, on days when screening does not occur, we are back to where we started.

The district did well by employing metal detectors for the Sept. 27 homecoming football game, proving that walk-through metal detectors are a viable way to quickly screen attendees. If this approach can work for football, it can and should work for school. The time is now to implement such technology for daily school use. Installing permanent metal detectors would allow the high school to employ efficient security procedures without derailing the entire morning.

When it comes to security policies, Shaker has taken more steps to keep students and staff safe than some area high schools. Yet there is still more work to be done before we arrive at a permanent solution. While having students wait in line is clearly not the answer, foregoing security screenings the majority of the time isn't either. And, while the administration's efforts to keep the school safe are worthy of appreciation, what we need right now is reliability and efficiency.

In addition, we are a district that prides itself on equity. The district's ongoing policy of not busing high school students leaves some who live farthest with no options besides walking to school -- a trip that can take up to 45 minutes. Add a 30-45 minute wait to be screened, and these students must leave their homes even earlier if they hope to get to class on time. While these inefficiencies affect us all, impact is most pronounced for students who already face the greatest challenges to arriving on time.

While having students wait in line for up to 45 minutes is clearly not the answer, foregoing security screenings the majority of the time isn't either . . . what we need right now is reliability and efficiency.

We are glad to know that Superintendent David Glasner agrees that the current situation is not a permanent solution and that the administration is exploring security options. "I think the processes that we've had in place for the past month or so are not intended, nor should they be, long term, and they are definitely not sustainable," he said. "I do not think that the bag searching that we've been doing, and the wand-ing, is a good, long-term solution. I think that some type of detection is something that we are seriously considering."

"What we've found is that the more modern and advanced systems are really weapons detection systems," Glasner said, "and I might even add that I think the most advanced ones are the kind of artificial intelligence weapon detection systems. We are actively exploring different possibilities."

In the past, it seemed like students were apathetic about the implementation of metal detectors, but recent events have shown that this is not the case. At a Board of Education meeting Oct. 8, four students spoke in support of metal detectors. In light of the current gun violence epidemic, these students called for a sustainable and noninvasive form of security screening.

In a commentary about school safety released Oct. 11, Dr. John Morris, Shaker Heights Teachers' Association President and high school English teacher, wrote that some people resist changes to the security policy because they think that metal detectors will suggest that we are a dangerous, violent school forced to use extreme measures to keep students safe. "We will suddenly become like 'other districts' who have resorted to these safety measures. I think this way of thinking deserves examination and scrutiny," wrote Morris. "Do we really think there is a magic bubble surrounding Shaker because we believe it to be so?"

Meanwhile, Cleveland Heights High School has experienced four loaded guns on campus since Sept. 3. Since Oct. 14, four days after a fourth gun was found, CHHS students have passed through metal detectors to enter school. We're very glad to learn that administrators are considering installing detectors. However, the decision needs to be made now; more than a month has passed since Sept. 13, when two SHHS students were arrested for possessing a handgun and a knife when trying to enter the home football game vs. Euclid.

We understand that a permanent system cannot be installed tomorrow, and we appreciate that installation of detectors is being explored. But we expect the superintendent and Board of Education to move forward quickly to make it happen -- before *something* happens.

SHAKER SPEAKS

An opportunity for students to voice their thoughts about current events

The Shakerite sent a survey Oct. 16 to all English teachers and asked that they share it with their students. The survey sought opinions on the potential installation of metal detectors in the high school. It posed four questions:

1. In your opinion, how would the installation of metal detectors in the high school affect the school's reputation beyond Shaker Heights?
2. How would the installation of metal detectors in the high school affect your sense of safety during the day?
3. How would the installation of metal detectors in the high school affect your academic achievement?
4. Is there any other feeling or opinion about security that you would like readers to see in print? If so, please share.

This page features responses to the first two questions.

Most students said that metal detectors would not have a negative effect on the school's reputation – some even said that the school would look more favorable for taking action and heightening security. The majority also felt that metal detectors would make them feel safer at school, moreso than bag checks and wandering.

The Shakerite selected a representative group of responses to the survey. They appear below.

In your opinion, how would the installation of metal detectors in the high school affect the school's reputation beyond Shaker Heights?

Alec Turturici, junior

"I don't think it will have much of an effect on the school's reputation, other than the fact that our school is now safer and we are taking the proper measures to ensure safety. Metal detectors are commonplace elsewhere in the U.S, so why would they have a negative connotation here?"

Amara Nickerson, senior

"I think the fact that we even need metal detectors affects the reputation a great deal. People are transferring here because it is or was known as a good school. Now we have people who think they're 'street smart' and bring weapons to school for whatever reason they do it. The fact that we even had to do bag checks brings down our reputation in a negative way. The fact that schools need to be protected from their students bringing weapons brings down the reputation of not just Shaker Heights but all the schools of America."

Dakota Bailey, sophomore

"I personally think that the only downside would be the fact that Shaker has decided to take action NOW. This could have been done a lot earlier. Other than that it just looks like they're taking action, which is good!"

Gavin Marston, sophomore

"I have heard on the news various other schools around the country have already installed metal detectors, so I don't think it will have a massive effect overall, but maybe a bit of a negative stigma locally. But we have already had manual searches at the school, so the damage has already been done. No point in not just accepting it, in my opinion."

Emma Barker, freshman

"I think the installation of metal detectors in the high school wouldn't affect the school's reputation. If anything, I would think it sends a message that they value the people inside the building and choose to keep them safe."



How would the installation of metal detectors in the high school affect your sense of safety during the day?

Asa Zeigler, junior

"It's the exact same as the wands and bag searches. It's not the biggest deal. I don't feel any safer, quite frankly, because the school already absolutely sucks at enforcing anything and being serious with the searches. If they are gonna do all this safety stuff, then don't joke. Put in the effort to do it right if they are so focused on the safety."

Cate Wanick, freshman

"I would definitely feel a lot safer and more protected because I would know that if anybody had anything, it would have gotten caught."

Trent Kafcsak, senior

"I would feel safer. I've seen firsthand how ineffective the current bag check system is, and I have confidence that someone could easily sneak a weapon in past school bag checks should they feel so inclined. Metal detectors would help this, eliminating the risk of human error during bag checks."

Aaron Yost, junior

"Having metal detectors at the school would definitely make me feel safer in the building. Having more layers of protection between someone with violent intentions is a positive to me."

Eleanor Braunsdorf, senior

"Provided that it isn't just the person being scanned, but any bag(s) too, I would feel much safer. I am constantly on high alert as I never know when something could happen due to our current lack of security measures. As a senior, I have experienced at least 10 threats to SHHS/lock-downs due to violence, intruders, etc. I believe metal detectors and overall increased security measures will make me, other students, and staff feel more safe."

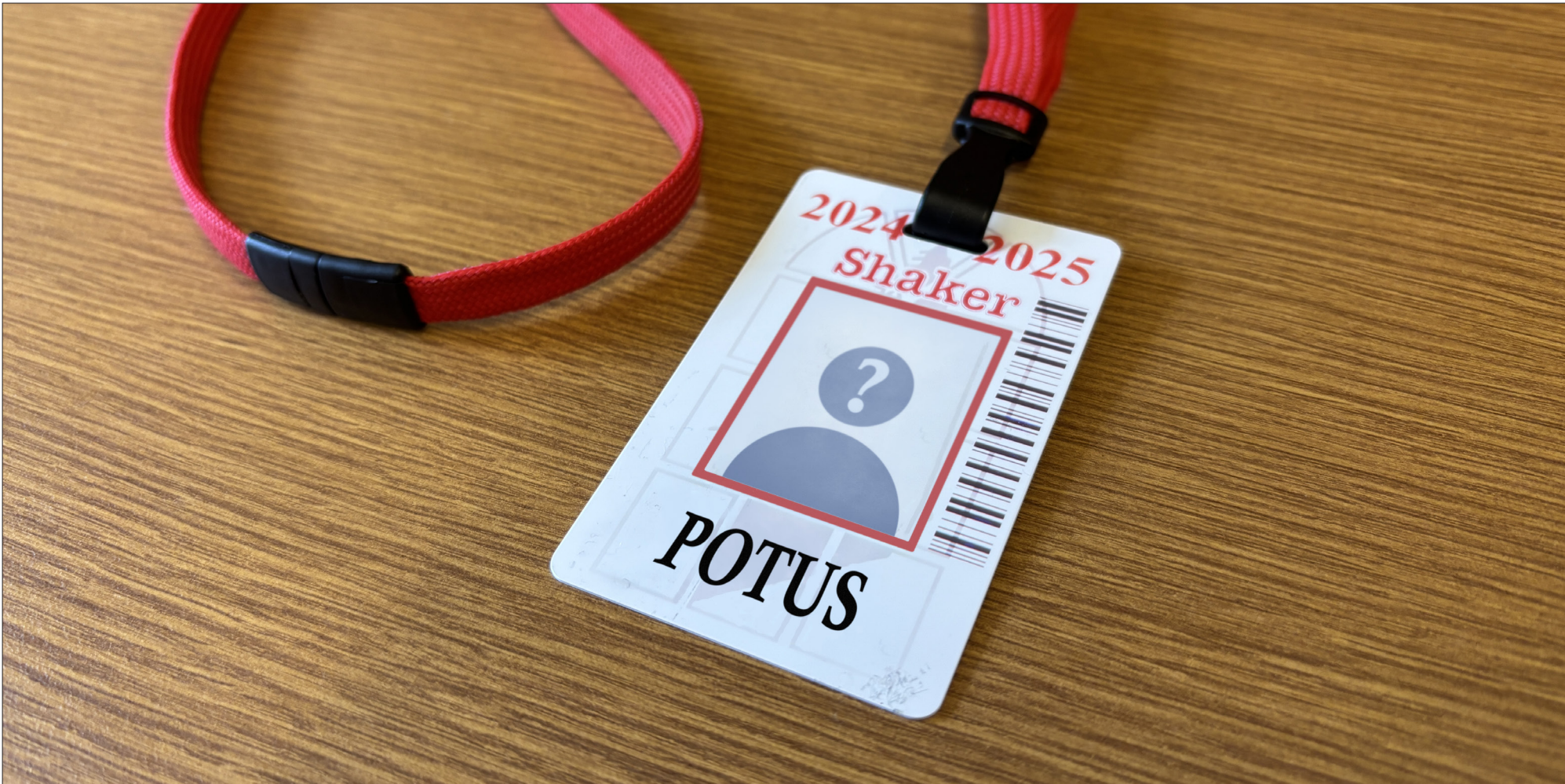


Illustration by Alison Teeter

THIS VOTE WILL BE HISTORIC, NO MATTER WHO WINS

VIJAYA SADLER
City Reporter

Senior Zion Richmond is hearing one message loud and clear in the Shaker community. “Vote, vote, vote, vote,” said Richmond, reproducing the mantra from adults and peers at church.

Americans have begun voting for the Democrat and Republican presidential candidates Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Harris is the first Black and Indian woman to win a major party candidacy. Trump is the first former president to be convicted of a felony.

The results of the 60th presidential ballot may not be known for days or weeks after Election Day Nov. 5, given how close the race is and how likely the Republican Party is to challenge votes and vote counts. Opinions about the election are plentiful at the high school, and teachers and community leaders are encouraging eligible students to vote.

“It’s important to vote in every single election,” Government teacher Kimberly Owens said. “Government teachers register every student that is eligible to vote.”

According to the 2024 census, the population of Shaker Heights is 28,262. The town is home to 6,693 registered Democrats and 1,285 registered Republicans.

Senior Amber Perkins said that the election could cause strain in her family because of differing viewpoints. “It could



Lawrence Jackson

Vice President Kamala Harris

- Cut taxes for middle class families; raise taxes on big businesses and Americans making \$400,000 or more a year.
- Make rent more affordable and home ownership more attainable.
- Supports the bipartisan border security bill.
- Advocates for two-state solution between Israel and Palestine and an end to the war in Gaza.
- Would restore and protect reproductive freedoms.
- Advocates for stricter gun laws and increased background checks.



Shaleah Craighead

Former President Donald Trump

- End inflation, and “make America affordable again.”
- Reduce top corporate tax rate.
- Seal the border; promises biggest mass deportation of undocumented migrants in US history.
- Supports Israel, promises to end war in Gaza but says little about how.
- Expresses shifting views on abortion; takes credit for Supreme Court’s reversal of Roe v. Wade.
- Defends the constitutional right to keep and bear arms and the NRA.

create a divide between me and my family, which is sad because I don’t want that divide, but at the same time, they have a lot of different views than I do,” she said. “Some of my family doesn’t believe in climate change.”

Senior Mia Barefoot said that Trump’s policies wouldn’t protect her rights. “If Trump won, I’d be pretty screwed, because A: I’m a woman; and B: I’m part of the LGBTQ community.”

Melanie Walton, a senior, knows enough to know what side she’s on. “I don’t know much about Trump, but what I do know is that he’s a felon, sexist, racist and against abortions,” she said. “Although I don’t know much about Kamala, I know she’s not a convicted felon and supports women’s rights.”

Junior Laila Warner never knows “what the hell Trump is talking about,” she said. “I hope Kamala can make things better to fix current situations like taxes. Some taxes are too high for families, and it’s getting hard for people to pay them. This is not only important for my parents, but eventually taxes will become my problem.”

Junior Myles Hills said this election will be the “turn of the century.”

“If Trump wins, it will set us backward, and Kamala will be a huge step forward,” he said.

AP U.S. History teacher Sarah Davis said that this election is uniquely momentous. Said Davis, “Whatever the outcome of the election is, it will be pretty historic.”

Caps May Reduce Concussions, But Who Pays if They Don't?

JACOB DICKAS, REGGIE FITZGORDON, CHARLIE HOWEL
Sports Writing Reporters

The high school football program has Guardian Caps, but players can't use them until a legal question is answered.

Guardian Caps are a padded helmet covering intended to reduce the risk of head injuries. In 2022, they were introduced during NFL training camp. According to Fox Sports, since their introduction, the caps have enabled a 50 percent decline in training camp concussions. The NFL now allows players to wear the caps during regular season games.

But Head Coach Alex Nicholson said that Guardian Caps are not an option for Raider players. "Nobody has given me a direct answer as to who has liability," or legal responsibility for injury, Nicholson said.

Riddell, the world's largest football helmet manufacturer, provides most of the high school's helmets. The company has a five-year warranty for helmets it manufactures for high school athletes.

According to Riddell's Terms and Conditions, components added to a helmet but made by another manufacturer cancel Riddell's legal responsibility for injury. "Whenever you alter the equipment, you void the warranty, meaning the company is not liable," Nicholson said.

But Guardian Sports, manufacturer of Guardian Caps, also denies liability. Its warranty states, "Helmet manufacturers cannot remove themselves from liability without showing how a product has negatively affected the performance of their helmet or made it more dangerous/less safe for an athlete to play football."

In response to the NFL's training camp results, Nicholson expressed interest in using the caps next summer. "Do I think they help? Yes," Nicholson said.

However, he won't risk using them without knowing whether he and the school district can be held financially responsible if a player sustains a head injury while wearing the product.

Nicholson said, "Once somebody tells me who is liable, we can begin to have that conversation."



Alex Nicholson and players confer in 2019. File Photo by David Vahey



Beard evades Willoughby South defenders Aug. 23 at Russel H. Rupp Field. Juan controls the ball Aug. 29 v. Dexter (MI) at home.



Photos by Michael Better and Ally Rich

BEARD, JUAN RUN UP RAIDER SCORES

EAMONN FUREY AND SPENCER ZBANEK

Raider Zone Editors

Senior running back and captain Cornell Beard tallied 113 carries for 624 yards and nine rushing touchdowns before sustaining an injury Oct. 1.

He was averaging 5.5 yards per carry and had 172 yards and two touchdowns in 14 receptions. On the strength of that performance, The Shakerite named Beard September Raider of the Month.

Beard said his outlook separates him from his competition. "I think differently and I look at things differently. I don't compare myself with others or what others got. I wait my turn. You just got to stay calm and take control of what you can, and let the rest play out," he said.



Cornell Beard

Head Coach Alex Nicholson said Beard is a leader. "He commands respect in the locker room and keeps the guys focused," he said.

Nicholson said he is wowed every time Beard spins while carrying the ball. "He presses that 'B' button a lot," he said. (In the Xbox NFL video game series Madden, players press the 'B' button to make their user-controlled player do a spin move.)

Captain Isaac Smith, a junior, said he was stunned when Beard made two Brush defenders fall with one spin move. "He's an artist. The field is just his tapestry," Smith said.

Beard earned all-conference and all-state honors in the 2023 season. As a junior, he tallied 1,362 yards on 203 carries, averaging 6.7 yards per carry with 23 touchdowns.

Beard does not get caught up in the awards and honors he has earned. "The pressure I'm holding is me being better than me," Beard said. "I let my work show and have fun."

Charlotte Juan, a senior midfielder, racked up 56 points through the regular season. Her 23 goals lead the team, and she is ranked third in Ohio for total points.

Head Coach Ashley Boorstein said that Juan confuses opponents and is a leading force in the team's attack. "She's strong on the ball with quick hands in the circle, and consistent," she said.

"I love to play fast, whether it's quick transitions or running into space to set up the next play," Juan said.

The Raiders finished the regular season 11-5-2 and defeated Stow-Monroe Falls Oct. 16 in their first post-season contest.

"Charlotte is tenacious on both sides of the ball," Boorstein said. "She's quick to get back to pressure defensively."

Juan said that modeling consistency for younger teammates is key to success. "Working hard in practice and staying focused during the game is really important," she said. "We need to practice how we play."

Sophomore Liz Wilson said that Juan inspires. "She lifts the team up when we need it. She is a very positive role model for the younger girls and a great leader," she said.

Juan earned first-team all-conference as a junior, when she tallied 20 goals and 12 assists.

Shaker has earned regional championships for three years in a row but has not won the state championship since 2014. Juan said, "My goal is to continue mine and my team's success, become four-peat regional champions and, ultimately, win states."



Charlotte Juan

R.O.M

We Can't Run Away From Danger Anymore

Shaker fans should trust in the administration's decision to add metal detection and greater police presence to football games.

A Shaker student was arrested for possession of a handgun when trying to enter the Sept. 13 Shaker versus Euclid football game.



VAUGHN ULLOM
Raider Zone Editor

A Euclid cheerleader alerted security that the student was going to be armed, and police detained him. Without the warning, security would not have acted. Without that warning, a gun would have entered Russell H. Rupp Stadium.

High school athletics should operate for student-athletes to play the sport they enjoy. An enjoyable game environment does not include armed students. Being Shaker football's play-by-play live stream commentator, I have seen too many safety scares over the past four years.

After the Aug. 30 Shaker versus Brush High School football game, attendees heard loud popping noises in the stadium. I saw Shaker football players and marching band members running away in panic.

During the 2022 season, Shaker played at Garfield Heights and Shaw, both Lake Erie League rivals. However, fans and student interns were encouraged not to attend either game because there were shootings within a block of the stadiums less than a week before.

Being in the stadium for those games made me feel like I was taking a risk. I should not feel unsafe at a football game; I should be excited about the plays taking their course on the field.

So I am glad to see new security measures at both home and away games. Metal detecting wands were introduced for the Euclid game. Metal detection has been used for each home game since.

The district has taken other measures to avoid violence before this season, including switching athletic conferences to avoid it. But these moves have clearly not been enough.

The Raiders are two years back in the Greater Cleveland Conference even though our athletes endured racist abuse delivered by GCC opponents that sent Shaker to the LEL. That 2020 move was due to "diversity/cultural sensitivity issues," according to a Jan. 10, 2019 district statement.

There is no longer a right or wrong conference. Neither can eliminate violence, and becoming independent is not a long-term solution for a public high school.

Conferences allow for relationships and rivalries to build between opposing schools, leading to spirited games. This experience should not be taken away from our student-athletes and fans.

High school athletic events are not as safe as they once were. Though it is a distressing reality, metal detectors and greater police presence are necessary for Shaker football games, home or away.



Smith takes off from the starting line Oct. 5 at the Legends XC Meet. Hurley volleys versus Hathaway Brown Sept. 16 at home.

Photos by Camryn Dozier and Meredith Stevenson

SMITH, HURLEY LEAD RAIDER CHARGE

EAMONN FUREY AND SPENCER ZBANEK

Raider Zone Editors

Cross country Captain Patrick Smith's 2024 personal 5k record is a 16:29 leads the team.

Cross country coach David Englander admires the senior's work ethic. "Patrick is an extremely hard worker, although he is certainly not alone on the team," he said. "He runs six days a week, 48 weeks a year, with his only time off being the two weeks in between [cross country and track] seasons."

Sophomore Ezra Epstein said that Smith's success inspires the team. "I think he's a very good leader who inspires the team because of his good race times. He is always going 110 percent," he said.



Patrick Smith

Englander said Smith lives up to a captain's role. "We have a tradition of strong captains who foster a welcoming team environment, and Patrick and his classmates are continuing that legacy," he said. "They are quick to look out for the younger runners around them, offering strong encouragement."

Smith emphasized focus. "It's so easy to forget why you're doing something when it gets difficult, so remembering why you're working so hard is crucial. Also, becoming focused before the race is a game-changer," he said.

Epstein said that Smith makes all of his teammates feel like they matter. "He really cares about the future of the program. He is always willing to help anyone with injuries, and gives rides home from practice," he said.

Said Englander, "Patrick is consistent and wants what's best for himself and those around him. He is relentlessly positive and a joy to work with."

Senior captain Meredith Hurley plays first singles for the Raiders.

Head Coach William Morgan said that Hurley "goes above and beyond to ensure that every teammate feels valued and respected. She is highly inclusive, making sure that all players are embraced as part of the team. Her positive energy and respect for her fellow athletes have had a profound impact on the unity of our group."

Junior Dahlia Novick said that Hurley supports the team without pause. "We could always count on her to be our biggest cheerleader throughout the toughest matches of our season," she said.

Hurley said she stays focused on every point she plays. "I treat every point like a learning opportunity. If I scored, I learned how to win a point; if I lost, I learned something about changing my swing or where not to hit," she said.

Morgan said watching Hurley play is a pleasure. "She demonstrates incredible skill and is highly strategic on the court. Her dedication to the game and enthusiasm are inspiring," Morgan said.

Hurley said she changes her game to beat the competition. "I play the game I know I need to play to win. That may be hitting killers or well-placed shots to the T. You can't play the same tennis against everyone," she said.

Morgan said that the senior never quits. "One of her standout qualities is her ability to sustain long matches with remarkable endurance," he said. She consistently shows an impressive level of determination and focus, which makes her a true asset to any team."



Meredith Hurley

R.O.M